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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,501	06/29/2001	Donald Craig Foster	M-11315 US	7243
7590 12/15/2003			EXAMINER	
Bever Hoffman & Harms 2099 Gateway Place Suite 320 San Jose, CA 95110-1017			GRAYBILL, DAVID E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/895,501	FOSTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David E Graybill	2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17,19-21,23,24,46,48-55 and 60-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-21,23,24,49-55 and 61-64 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17,46,48 and 60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

In the rejections infra, reference labels are generally recited only for the first recitation of identical claim language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17, 46, 48 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Tada (5548890) and Kubota (JP6204374).

In the English translation, abstracts and figures, Kubota teaches the following:

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe 1 including a plurality of leads within and connected to a frame, wherein at least an inner end portion 2 of each lead is singulated by laser cutting, wherein the inner portion of each lead has a lesser thickness than an adjacent remaining portion of the lead.

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe including a plurality of leads, wherein at least a first portion of each lead is singulated by laser cutting, wherein the first portion of the leads has a lesser thickness than an outwardly adjacent

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portion of the lead, wherein the first portion of the lead is an inner end of the lead.

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe including die pad 2 and a plurality of leads extending toward the die pad, wherein at least a first portion of each lead is singulated by laser cutting, said first portion having a thickness less than a remaining thickness of an immediately adjacent outward portion of the lead.

Although Kubota does not appear to literally teach the preamble, "a method of making a semiconductor package," the preamble is accorded little patentable weight because it merely recites the intended purpose of the process, the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness, and the process steps are able to stand alone. In re Hirao, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976). Moreover, the intended purpose does not manipulatively limit the scope of the claims, and the process can be used for the intended purpose. Indeed, the intended purpose of the process of Kubota is evidenced by its US classification in class 257, subclass 666, directed to semiconductor packages.

However, Kubota does not appear to explicitly teach a method of making a semiconductor package comprising mounting a chip 102 on the leadframe, electrically coupling 103 the chip to the inner end portion of a

plurality of the leads, and encapsulating 104 the chip and the inner end portion of the leads, electrically coupling a chip to the leads, and the chip is electrically coupled to the first portion of the leads, and electrically coupling an electrical conductor between a chip coupled to the die pad and the first portion of respective ones of said leads.

Nevertheless, at column 16, line 55 to column 17, line 43, Tada teaches a method of making a semiconductor package comprising mounting a chip 102 on a leadframe 1, electrically coupling 103 the chip to the inner end portion 3a of a plurality of leads 3; and encapsulating 104 the chip and the inner end portion of the leads, the chip is electrically coupled to a first portion 3a of the leads, and electrically coupling an electrical conductor 103 between a chip coupled to a die pad 2 and the first portion of respective ones of the leads.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Tada with the teaching of Kubota because it would facilitate electrical connection of a chip to the leadframe of Kubota.


Applicant's amendment and remarks filed 8-26-3 have been fully considered, are addressed by the rejections supra.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any telephone inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status (MPEP 203.08) of this application or proceeding should be directed to Group 2800 Customer Service whose telephone number is 703-306-3329.

Any telephone inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Graybill at (703) 308-2947, or after about 02/05/04, (571) 272-1930. Regular office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The fax phone number for group 2800 is (703) 872-9306.


David E. Graybill
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

D.G.
14-Dec-03